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David Gerrold
c/o Pocket Books Publicity
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Mr. Gerrold:

Was it something we said? Perhaps it was something we didn't say (though that's less likely). Actually I'm a little embarrassed to relate this tale, it being almost two years late. But . . . imagine my surprise when the July '85 issue of Profiles arrived and the "Up and Running" column had up and ran off (you must have really pissed off those Mac Inker folks). You've been much missed (Ted Silveira does a great job, but "it just ain't the same since you've been gone").

Beyond sending you this very belated note of appreciation, I have a request to make (I'm sure you knew it was going to lead to this . . .). I'm working on a "news feature" article for a feature writing course at Cal State Fullerton, and would be very interested in any insights, anecdotes, tangents that you might have on the supposed "future demise of MSDOS" ("with special reference to lessons learned from the passing of its predecessor, CP/M").

With XT "name brand" clones hovering around \$800 ("complete with 20MB hard disk, monitor, and one free Taiwanese lesson") those that haven't yet bought into the yuppie PC consciousness would be hard pressed to use money as an excuse. But I'm wondering if today's computer consumer in this position is making the mistake of buy technology that has already been given a death sentence (like buy a super-Beta VCR). I bought my first Kaypro in '84, just before CP/M made its full retreat into the land of mail-order catalogues where stubborn hackers-monks can be heard muttering, "ZCPR1, ZCPR2, ZCPR3! ZCPR1 . . ." I guess I'm just a little sensitive about the public buying into obsolescence.

I have interviewed Derek McKay from Plu*Perfect Systems and Greg Fisher from Advent Products. I hope to contact Peter McWilliams (of Personal Computer Book fame) and David Thompson (from Micro Cornucopia). It just wouldn't be the same without you.

Now the bad news: because this article is tied to class work I have a ridiculous deadline (are you ready for this?) April 4 (might as well be April 1). I was hoping to get the phone number

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of your agent from Pocket Books so as to quickly expedite the request but they had no number listed ("David who . . . ?). I can only hope that Pocket Books is quicker getting your correspondence to you than your royalty checks (Profiles, May/June 84). But, even if this doesn't reach you until July of '88, I'd be honored to hear from you.

Thank you for your time and good humor.

Sincerely,

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